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**TESTIMONY RE: Raised S.B. No. 296 AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL ORDERS WRITTEN
BY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

March 5, 2014

Good Day Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and esteemed members of the Public Health Committee.

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA) related to Raised Bill No.296 An Act Concerning Medical Orders written by Physician Assistants. I am Mary Jane Williams Ph.D., RN current chairperson of Government Relations Committee for the Connecticut Nurses Association and professor emeritus from Central Connecticut State University.

I speak in opposition to **Raised S.B. No. 296 AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL ORDERS WRITTEN BY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.**

Scope of Practice for all Health professionals is a growing issue. During the last decade we have investigated, and legislated a written a Scope of Practice Review Process. This legislated process provided a mechanism for the Department of Public Health to review the evidence from viable research to support the request for expansion of Scopes.

Recognizing the potential crisis in health care related to access to health care concerns all of us, as individuals and as professionals. However, we need to provide opportunity for all health care providers seeking to increase scope to provide the research evidence

essential to safe practice. If a professions States" We practice Medicine" then they need to prove through the legislated process of Scope Review that they are safe. It is projected by

"The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that PAs will be the second-fastest-growing profession in the next decade, increasing from 74,800 in 2008 to 103,900 in 2018. AAPA projects that in 2020, there will be between 137,000 and 173,000 certified PAs. In answer to growing physician shortages, there is a push for more PAs to help ensure access to care. Coupled with this are the prospects of an aging population (who will need more healthcare services) and the fact that more people are expected to seek care due to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act."

As the numbers of individuals seeking to enter health care grows it is essential we maintain and demonstrate high quality education, training, experience, and overall competence of health care practitioners. As health care providers advance over time, the distinctions between many health care professions in terms of their abilities to perform particular health care procedures have lessened, however, each profession must be professional accountable before their practice authority is expanded.

We as a State need to focus on high quality, safe, cost effective care. We need to utilize our providers to the full scope of their education as recommended by many groups and we need to promote integrated team based care that recognizes equally and respectfully all members of the team. But first we much make sure "the evidence supports the expansion of Scope" and this request for expansion should be determined by a full Scope of Practice Review conducted by the Department of Public Health.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

